

**UNEMPLOYMEN
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Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649203796

Unemployment by A. C. Pigou

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A. C. PIGOU

UNEMPLOYMENT

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C. K. OGDEN



UNEMPLOYMENT

BY

A. C. PIGOU, M.A.

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

AUTHOR OF "THE PRINCIPLES AND
METHODS OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE,"
"PREFERENTIAL AND PROTECTIVE IMPORT
DUTIES," "WEALTH AND WELFARE,"
ETC.

LONDON
WILLIAMS AND NORGATE

First printed December 1918
Reprinted February 1924

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

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PREFACE

I AM indebted to Messrs. Macmillan for permission to make use in this volume of a few passages from my books *Wealth and Welfare* and *The Principles and Methods of Industrial Peace* published by them. These passages appear within inverted commas, and page references to their position in the books from which they are taken are given in the notes. I have also to thank Mr. Terence Hickman for valuable help in the revision of the manuscript and for making the index; and Mr. Philip Baker for extensive criticisms and suggestions, by the adoption of which the book has, I think, been very much improved.

A. C. PIGOU.

King's College, Cambridge,
November 1913.

*The following volumes of kindred interest have already
been published in this Library:*

24. The Evolution of Industry. Prof. D. H. MacGregor.
16. The Science of Wealth. John A. Hobson, M.A.
59. Political Economy. Prof. J. S. Chapman.
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M.A.
10. The Socialist Movement. J. R. Macdonald, M.P.
11. Conservatism. Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P.
21. Liberalism. Prof. L. T. Hobhouse.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

It is thought by many that the attitude of economists in the face of obvious social evils is unduly contemplative; that conditions, which involve the misery of untold thousands and the withering of incalculable human promise, are for them no more than the theme for ingenious disquisitions, and the excuse for a number of scarcely comprehensible formulæ. Assuredly this is a mistaken view. The compelling motive that leads men to economic study is seldom a mere academic or scientific interest in the movements of the great wheel of wealth. It is rather the sense that, in the world of business and of labour, justice stands with biassed scales; that men, women and children stagger often into an abyss that *might* be fenced and guarded; that the lives of many are darker than they need be; that the wealth, on which western nations pride themselves,